

Virginia Department of Education *Board Highlights*



For Immediate Release
March 27, 2001

Contact: Charles Pyle
Public Information Manager
(804) 371-2420
Julie Grimes
Public Information Specialist
(804) 225-2775

Board of Education Adopts Revised History Standards

The Board of Education unanimously approved a revision of the History and Social Science Standards of Learning at its March 22-23, 2001 meeting in Richmond. The revision addresses concerns raised by teachers, administrators, parents, and others about the age-appropriateness and volume of content, sequencing, and inclusiveness of the present social studies standards.

"This has been an open process," said President Kirk T. Schroder. "The richness and historical accuracy of the revised standards is a testimony to the inclusiveness of the process and the hard work of the educators and scholars who have labored on this project since last fall." Prior to adopting the revised history standards, the board presented resolutions of appreciation to members of the History and Social Science SOL Review Task Force, which was appointed by the board in June 2000.

The revised standards replace those adopted by the board in 1995 and will go into effect on July 1, 2001. Superintendent of Public Instruction Jo Lynne DeMary has directed curriculum specialists with the Department of Education to begin work on revising the History and Social Science Teachers Resource Guide, which amplifies the standards and guides school divisions in the design of curricula. Adjustment of assessments to reflect the revision of the standards and resource guide will be discussed at the board's April meeting.

Legislation adopted by the 2000 General Assembly requires the board to review and revise the standards for each subject area at least once every seven years. The process of revising the Mathematics Standards of Learning will begin in 2002, followed by science in 2003 and English in 2004.

Expansion of Commonwealth Governor's School Approved

The board also gave its unanimous assent to the expansion of the Commonwealth Governor's School, which serves students in King George, Stafford, and Spotsylvania counties. The school uses real-time interactive television to link students and teachers at three schools: Colonial Forge High School and Stafford High School in Stafford County and Spotsylvania Vocational Center. Students from King George County attend the program at Stafford High School. The board's approval of Dr. DeMary's recommendation will lift the restriction on the number of sites and enable the school's regional governing board to determine the number of sites needed to implement the program effectively. The local school division will be responsible for the costs associated with the additional site.

(more)

Highlights from the Board of Education Meeting March 22-23, 2000

Consent Agenda

- Final review of recommendations concerning release of Literary Fund loans for placement on waiting list
- Final review of recommendations concerning applications for Literary Fund loans
- Final review of financial report of Literary Fund
- First review of Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) for proposed revisions to Regulations Governing General Educational Development Certificates (moved to consent agenda from regular agenda)
- Final review of Regulations Governing the Secondary School Transcript (moved to consent agenda from regular agenda)

Resolutions and Recognitions

- Resolution honoring members of the History and Social Science Standards of Learning Review Task Force: Advisory Committee members, Management Committee members, and Content Area Committee members
- Resolution recognizing the Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, the recipient of the National Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development's 2001 Affiliate Excellence Award

Discussion and Action Items

ITEM	ACTION
First review of a request from Hopewell City Public Schools concerning a Literary Fund loan.	The board waived first review and approved the request on final review.
First review of additional models/programs that include instructional methods to satisfy provisions in Regulations Establishing Accrediting Standards for Public Schools in Virginia.	The board waived first review and approved the additional models/programs on final review.
First review of a proposal to establish a second site for the Commonwealth's Governor's School in Spotsylvania County.	The board waived first review and approved the second site on final review.
First review of a request for approval of an innovative program involving opening prior to Labor Day from the Fairfax County School Board.	The board waived first review and approved the request on final review.
First review of a request for approval of an innovative program involving opening prior to Labor Day from the Hampton City School Board.	The board waived first review and approved the request on final review.

(more)

ITEM	ACTION
First review of a request for approval of an innovative program involving opening prior to Labor Day from the Virginia Beach City School Board.	The board waived first review and approved the request on final review.
First review of alternatives for the Praxis I Assessments for initial licensure.	The board received the alternatives on first review.
Report on the results of the fall 2000 administration of the Stanford Nine Achievement Tests.	The board accepted the report.
Presentation of preliminary findings of academic reviews.	The board accepted the report.
Final review of Revised History and Social Science Standards of Learning.	The board amended the revised standards and approved them on final review.

###